



## Barnahus: a European journey

Findings of a mapping study on multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models responding to violence against children.

**MOLDOVA Barnahus Model**

# REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Between Romania and Ukraine, Republic of Moldova emerged as an independent republic following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.



Moldova is a country with a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, making it an intriguing destination for travelers and a nation with a distinct identity in Eastern Europe.



## AREA

33,483 km<sup>2</sup>



## POPULATION

approximately  
2.5 million as of  
January 2023



## CAPITAL

Chișinău



## LEADERS

President:  
**Maia Sandu**,  
Prime Minister:  
**Dorin Recean**,  
Speaker:  
**Igor Grosu**



## to know:

**Vision** – a society in which all the children are protected against any form of violence.

**Mission** – We contribute to the decrease of the incidence and of the consequences of violence against children through prevention, advocacy, capacity building and specialized services' provision.

## to trust:

**NCCAP** started its activity in 1997 with an educational program for children, parents and teachers – Child Abuse Prevention Program, and in 1998, it was registered with the Ministry of Justice.

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Conducts public awareness campaigns to prevent violence, including corporal punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

Delivers educational and prevention programs to develop resilience in children.



Increase the access of parents and caregivers to parenting education.

Advocates for enhancing access of children victims of abuse to protection services.



Builds the capacities of professionals from all sectors, who work with and for children.

Conducts research on child protection issues.



# to protect and empower:


Throughout its whole period of activity since it had been registered in the Ministry of Justice in 1998, NCCAP developed a large and complex spectrum of services, being a promoter of the most innovative practices for child abuse prevention, and for the assistance of child victims, also sharing its expertise with the child protection authorities.

**NCCAP** is currently offering four different services for children and their caregivers:

## to follow:

 [www.cnpac.md](http://www.cnpac.md)  
 [www.12plus.md](http://www.12plus.md)  
 [www.barnahus.md](http://www.barnahus.md)

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 @12plus.md  
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zului fatadeCopii



Barnahus is a highly specialized service which offers child victims/witnesses of crimes, multidisciplinary assistance under one roof through immediate, coordinated and professional interventions.

Child and family psycho-social assistance Center "Amicul" was created by NCCAP in 2003 and starting with 2022 is offering psychological rehabilitation services for children victims of abuse and their caregivers.



Online Chat for adolescents provides psychological counseling for local and refugee children, free of charge and anonymous.

The mobile psycho-social assistance service "PIDTRIMKA" was created as a response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis and offers support to the displaced and local host community children and caregivers.



# BARNAHUS

Barnahus is a highly specialised social service, created based on Governmental Decision from 2019, providing integrated assistance to children at regional level, under one roof, where **law enforcement, criminal justice, child protective services, and medical and mental health workers** cooperate and assess together the situation of the child and decide upon the follow-up.

The first Barnahus centre was inaugurated in Republic of Moldova in **2022** joining **law enforcement, mental health services, child protection services, forensic examination under one roof**, this offering an increased level of protection for children victims of violence throughout the process of penal investigation.



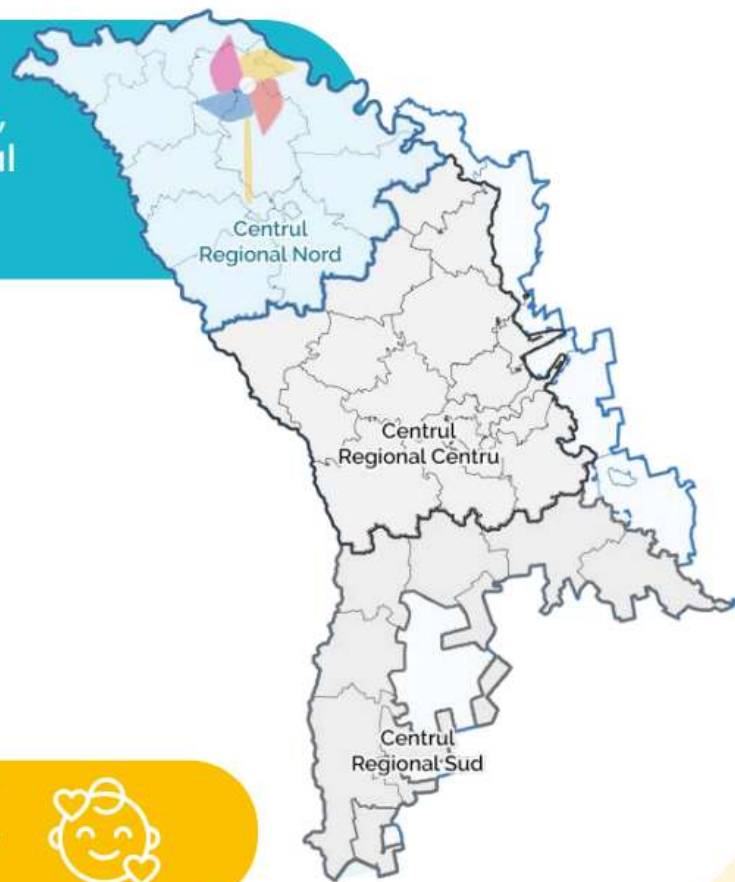




The founder of the service is the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and it is provided through three regional Centres – North, Centre and South.

Specialised assistance services provided within the Northern Regional Centre are provided by the **National Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse (CNPAC)** under a public procurement contract for social services with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

All the services are provided in a safe and **child-friendly** environment to prevent the re-traumatization of the children.



**In Barnahus, professionals from the different disciplines collaborate to provide a carefully balanced intervention that responds to the needs of each child:**



**Child Protection**



**Mental health**



**Forensic  
examination**



**Criminal justice  
investigation and proceedings**

# Child Protection

**The Barnahus contributes to assessment of protection needs and ensure a coordinated, multidisciplinary response.**





# Criminal justice investigation & proceedings



The criminal investigation in Barnahus, including the forensic interview, respects the procedural safeguards of both the child and the defendant. A child-friendly forensic interview is carried out according to an evidence-based protocol by a specialized forensic interviewer to secure the best possible evidence and to protect the child from (re)traumatization. The interview is recorded and presents admissible evidence in Court.

# Forensic Examination

A forensic examination is carried out by forensic doctors, based on clinical protocols for the examination of children victims of physical violence.



# Mental Health

All children are offered a mental health assessment and appropriate support by specialized and highly competent staff, including crisis support and psychological reports.





# Three key principles of **Barnahus** model in Republic of Moldova:



In cases of violence against children, procedural law, requires the collection of evidence outside court.



The institution of the investigating judge is the guarantor of the collection of evidence under special conditions in the Barnahus.



The child never goes to court. Even if there is a rehearing, it will be in Barnahus.

# BARNAHUS

Since opening, specialised Barnahus services, have been provided to **257 beneficiaries** as follows:

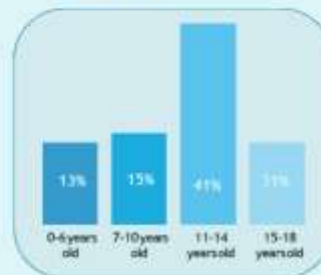
**2022**

(nine months of activity) - 78 children and 59 adults

**2023**

(in the first 4 months of the year) - 73 children and 47 adults

Age of children in care



Gender of children in care



Status of children in care





# BARNAHUS

[Cunosti cazuri suspecte de abuz?](#) Raportează-te la Telefonul copilului **116 111** sau la **112**.

[www.barnahus.md](http://www.barnahus.md)



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